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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Estonia)

SUBJECT Reported Developments in the Estonian SSR:
Maneuvers with Amphibious Vehicles/Tallin
Naval Club

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Military Amphibious Vehicles

1. "At the end of June 1953 the automobile faculty of the Kaganovich Military Transport Academy of the Armed Forces in Leningrad made a tactical trip to the regions of Haapsalu, Virtsu and Parnu in the Estonian SSR. The instructors who made this trip were:

Major-General L. Novikov
Colonel N. A. Bukharin
Colonel Ye. I. Bronshtein and
Colonel N. Kh. Diachenko

2. "The students of the automobile faculty arrived from Leningrad on new Soviet-made floating amphibious vehicles. Two types of floating amphibious vehicles were observed:
 - (a) The four-seated 'PA-GAZ' with four driving wheels, an all-metal, boat-shaped body and a screw propeller astern;
 - (b) The 12-seated 'PA-ZIS' with four driving axles, two screw propellers and two motors, each of which has its own gear box and moves the wheels of one side of the vehicle.

Tallin Naval Club

3. "The former Tallin Yachting Club has been restored under the name of the Tallin Naval Club and now forms part of the DOSAAF organization. The premises of the club have been moved from the Tallin harbour to the estuary of the Pirita River about seven kilometres northeast of the city. It is now situated close to the bridge which spans the Pirita near the estuary.
4. "The present chairman of the club is Reserve Captain of the Second Rank [fnu] Bulychev. The manager is Reserve Lieutenant [fnu] Tkhorzhevski.

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5. "The club has no new equipment. Its present property consists of the old yachts and motor launches of the former Tallin Yachting Club as well as what is left of that club's other craft and furnishings. All this equipment is very old, shabby and practically useless. Nevertheless the Soviets attach an inordinately great value to it and consider the use a great privilege. Membership is extended practically only to reserve naval officers of Soviet nationality. Only half a dozen Estonians have been allowed to become members. The probable reason for this discrimination, the Estonians think, is the fear of the Soviets that the Estonians might use the old yachts for escaping abroad."

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